



David Bergland Moderates Wrights/
Johnson Debate - Page 3

LP News

The Party of Principle™

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Gov. Gary Johnson, Judge Jim Gray Top LP Ticket

A roller-coaster ride, a heart-rending celebration of the party's 40-year history, the election of our high-profile presidential and vice-presidential candidates and a refreshing departure from today's scripted, tightly controlled, and taxpayer-funded Republican and Democratic conventions -- that was the 2012 Libertarian National Convention held at the Red Rock Resort in Las Vegas, Nevada on May 2 to 6.

The presidential debate between Lee Wrights and Gary Johnson was as friendly as a reunion of two old friends. The presidential and vice presidential nominations were decisive.

An array of Libertarian Heroes and other fascinating speakers graced the convention with inspiring talks and powerful, useful candidate training sessions.

While left largely intact, some important changes were made to the party's bylaws and platform.



The Libertarian Party elected former two-term New Mexico Governor Gary Johnson (left) as its presidential candidate for the 2012 election. Judge Jim Gray (right), a veteran trial judge in California, was elected Vice President.

Then came the election for party officers. Buckle your seatbelt! No one knew how the passionately contested race for Chair would end.

Delegates chose former New Mexico Governor Gary Johnson to be the Libertar-

ian Presidential nominee, receiving 419 of the 595 votes (70 percent) in the first round of balloting.

"I am honored and I just want to

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CHAIR'S CORNER

Things Must Change



Geoffrey J. Neale

The Libertarian Party has long had a tradition of advocating that “none of the above” (NOTA) be a choice on every ballot, so that voters are not forced to choose between candidates they do not want. We use NOTA in our internal party races as an affirmation that this principle apply not only to government positions, but to ourselves

as well.

I’ve secretly rooted for NOTA for years, hoping that we Libertarians provide an example for the world of why NOTA is a great idea. If it’s a great idea for public elections, we should be able to show and acknowledge that it’s a great idea for us too.

I never anticipated that this would be the year - that the Chair’s race would be the venue -- that I would be the “survivor.” Up until 24 hours before the result was announced, I sensed that there was a high degree of dissatisfaction that was felt by more than just me.

In this election, in this year, NOTA was the irresistible force.

The sentiment was clear, but the reasons are many, and to assume I understand why the delegates voted for NOTA is a mistake I will not make. Each voter has his or her reason for why they voted for NOTA.

From my perspective, our delegates finally embraced NOTA, and understood their power. In the absence of a choice they could support, they embraced a response they could. What I heard was the same sentiment expressed by Howard Beale in the movie Network: “I’m mad as hell, and I’m not going to take this any more!”

Hundreds of people shouted their feelings, not with a single reason, or a single voice, but as a response to leadership they couldn’t and wouldn’t support. My election was achieved by a 62-percent final total, which I would consider to be a mandate if I had an opponent other than NOTA. Let me be clear: NOTA got the mandate, not me.

Thirty-eight percent wanted someone besides me. Upon the announcement of the results, when walking to the stage, I asked a friend “Is 62 percent enough?”

I hope it is, to give me a chance to earn the privilege and duty of being your Chair. But I’m still not sure. All I know is that the delegates that supported me chose me, but those who chose NOTA are the electorate we on the LNC must address. The delegates spoke loudly, clearly and unambiguously that things must change.

After the convention, there were some signs lying around that said “Re-Elect No One for LNC.” I have one on my wall in my office. I intend to bring one to every LNC meeting. The LNC cannot forget what happened. We can only acknowledge the dissatisfaction, listen to the membership, and most of all hear what they have to say.

Then change!

In closing, I want to not only listen, but to hear why you voted for NOTA. Please share your reasons with me by emailing me at chair@lp.org.

PS -- I want to personally thank my dear friend and champion of liberty -- outgoing Chairman Mark Hinkle -- for his two years of service to the Libertarian Party. I’m happy to report that Mark accepted my offer to continue to both serve and lead in our efforts to raise the funds for the David F. Nolan Headquarters building.

Editor’s Note: Outgoing chairman Mark Hinkle responds: “Yes, I will work with David Blau to secure the funding necessary to buy the David F. Nolan Headquarters. Full speed ahead!”

The following individuals became Lifetime Members of the Libertarian Party between 3/16/12 and 6/1/12:

Drew Bisson (IN)
 Jerry Bloom (MI)
 John Bowers (MN)
 Michael Brickey (OH)
 Thomas Buchholz (CO)
 Stephen Collett (CA)
 Aaron Day (NH)
 Marc Feldman (OH)
 Catherine Jeffrey (NC)
 Todd Larson (IL)
 Sharon Maguire (PA)
 Edward Marsh (TN)
 Aaron Massey (IL)
 Rachel Moore (NE)
 Warren Patterson (SC)
 George Pearson (LA)
 Rob Power (NY)
 James Rongstad (MN)
 Hendrik Sharples (WA)
 Joseph Silvestri (NV)
 Kirk Singh (IN)
 Jay Wood (CA)

The Libertarian Party grants Lifetime Membership to individuals who contribute at least \$1,000 during any twelve-month period. Call 202-333-0008 to find out how much more you would need to donate to become a Lifetime Member today.

LPNews

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The Purposes of the Libertarian Party:

The Party is organized to implement and give voice to the principles embodied in the Statement of Principles by: functioning as a libertarian political entity separate and distinct from all other political parties or movements; moving public policy in a libertarian direction by building a political party that elects Libertarians to public office; chartering affiliate parties throughout the United States and promoting their growth and activities; nominating candidates for President and VicePresident of the United States, and supporting Party and affiliate party candidates for political office; and, entering into public information activities.

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MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

Next LP National Convention: Hyatt Regency, Columbus, Ohio
June 25-29, 2014

Transparency Wins, Fee Ban Fails in LP Bylaw Debate

Transparency was a big winner at the Las Vegas Convention when delegates set out to discuss party bylaws and proceedings. But an attempt to adopt language specifically prohibiting charging delegates a registration fee failed to get enough votes for passage.

Maximum transparency and access to LNC meeting records was the goal of one of 10 new proposals put forward by the Bylaws and Rules Committee.

The minutes of past LNC meetings are now available on the party's website, www.LP.org. However, in a past term, the archive was taken down and all historical minutes were removed.

The proposal, approved by convention delegates, requires that all important party documents be posted in a permanent archive section on the www.lp.org website. Moreover, it allows members to record the proceedings while in open session.

"It was necessary to make sure that all party members have access to records," commented Nicholas Sarwark, Vice Chair of the Libertarian Party of Colorado.

A heated discussion was sparked by a proposal by former National Libertarian Chair Jim Lark, who called for formally prohibiting a mandatory convention regis-

tration fee, also known as a floor fee.

The existing bylaws neither explicitly prohibit nor allow such a fee.

Mr. Lark's initiative gained a simple majority of 166 votes, with 112 delegates voting against. However, a qualified two-thirds majority was needed to ensure passage, something the motion did not attain.

Several proposals were designed to increase the power of rank-and-file party members while decreasing the clout of its elected officials. One of them was an amendment enabling members to bypass the Bylaws and Rules Committee and sponsor amendments to the bylaws. The measure also allowed voting for their approval by email.

Three more called for electing the LNC by all the members of the party rather than by convention delegates, holding so-called "open conventions," in which all members would be allowed to participate, and introducing a minimum membership term to qualify for being a convention delegate.

All four motions failed.

Other proposals that were rejected by vote of the delegates included: creation of a Style Committee empowered to edit

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Debate, or Dance?



R. Lee Wrights stands at the podium during a debate with Gov. Gary Johnson. While Johnson ultimately won the nomination, Wrights went on to be elected Vice Chairman of the Libertarian Party.

Was it a debate or a dance between Libertarian presidential candidates Lee Wrights of Texas and former governor Gary Johnson of New Mexico when they squared off in a bid for the party's nomination on Friday, May 4 in Las Vegas, Nevada at the 2012 Libertarian National Convention?

They differed more often in style than substance on most issues. Lee Wrights wowed the crowd with slogans and sound bites while Gary Johnson presented himself as an experienced lawmaker. Judging by the signs held up for the two candidates, Johnson had a 3:2 edge, or 60% to 40%.

Here are their responses to some questions and topics raised by David Bergland, debate moderator, who was the 1984 Libertarian Presidential Nominee.

Bergland: *What about the economy and job creation?*

Wright: This is for you, America. I am running for president so that I could leave you alone... Government is not the solution. Government exacerbates all the problems that we have.

Well, I have looked into that and have found there is a way a president can create jobs — by firing people. I know, I know it sounds funny, but it is true. We've done the research. For every regulator, for every bureaucrat (official) that loses their job, 150 private sector jobs are created. This is not going to be hard: You are fired, you are fired, you are fired. 150, 150, 150... I know it sounds crazy, but that would be my answer to it: Start firing people.

Johnson: Governance in this country needs to occur with the strict adherence to the U.S. Constitution. The bad news is that this country is in really deep trouble. We are going to experience a collapse in government. We are going to experience a monetary collapse given the fact that we are borrowing and printing money to the tune of 43 cents out of every dollar. That's the bad news. The good news is that we can fix this. We went to the Moon. We can fix this. And to fix this we need to stop printing money. We need to slash spending, and we need to do that now.

As president of the United States, I am making three promises. First promise, I promise to submit a balanced budget to Congress in the year 2013. I am going to submit a document with a \$1.4 trillion reduction in federal spending, a 43-percent reduction in federal spending.

Second promise, I promise to veto any expenditure that exceeds revenue... I have no aversion to vetoing legislation.

Lastly, I am promising to advocate on the part of throwing out the entire federal tax system: no income tax, no corporate tax, no tax withholding. Abolish the IRS.

"As governor of New Mexico (1995-2003) I had the best record of the 50 governors at creating new jobs. But I, as governor, I did not create a single job. The private sector creates jobs.

"But do not underestimate the power of the executive in controlling rules and regulations. I also favor the fair tax and the

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Ballot Access Update

The Libertarian Party is on ballot in 30 states as of June 7, 2012.

Third Party Americans Elect dropped out of the race for president. With Ron Paul out as well, it's wide open for the LP!

Problem: Funds are urgently needed to finish ballot access drives.

Solution: Please **donate today** at LP.org to get our candidates on the ballot.

With Many Thanks!



Ruth Bennett, Convention Director, addresses the crowd at the National Convention.

When National Chair Mark Hinkle asked me to take on the 2012 Libertarian Party Presidential Nominating Convention about 18 weeks before the opening gavel he should have warned me to “hang on! It’s going to be a bumpy ride!”

But no convention happens without many hands and I would like to thank the people that made it happen. Nancy Neale stepped up to take on speaker invitations, scheduling and so much more, and the convention would not have happened without all of her hours of work. Michael Colley oversaw our audio/visual needs, fire marshal compliance (no small measure in Las Vegas!) with the invaluable Joseph Hassen taking over A/V onsite and pitching in to do whatever I asked of him.

Alicia Mattson set up our initial schedule, which while we edited heavily, was a very useful tool. She also researched the many other entertainment options available for attendees. Kevin Knedler worked on all the Party awards and Brett Pojunis arranged for the Convention logo design. The convention theme, Liberty Will Win was the suggestion of Bill Redpath and Vicki Kirkland was a sane and reasonable voice in the occasional chaos.

Michael Cloud was the behind-the-scenes marketing genius that enabled us to sell over 250 Gold Packages with little marketing expense. BetteRose Ryan gave freely of her extensive convention planning experience and Executive Director

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National Convention Recap

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pledge that no one will be disappointed. We’re going to grow the Libertarian Party.” Mr. Johnson said in his acceptance speech.

Governor Johnson proposes to cut today’s federal government spending by 43% his first year in office as President in order to immediately balance the budget without raising total tax revenue. In his eight years as governor of New Mexico, he vetoed more bills than perhaps all other governors combined serving in the country at the time.

R. Lee Wrights of Texas received 152 votes, the only other candidate who qualified for inclusion in the presidential debate, which required the approval of at least 10 percent of the delegates.

The Vice Presidential nomination went to Judge James P. Gray of California, a former Superior Court Judge in Orange County, California and author of several books, including *Why Our Drug Laws Have Failed* and *What We Can Do About It - A Judicial Indictment of the War on Drugs* (2001).

Judge Gray was the 2004 Libertarian Party candidate for U.S. Senate challenging entrenched incumbent Democrat Barbara Boxer. He is now the spokesperson for a California ballot initiative *Regulate Marijuana Like Wine* which proponents aim to place on the ballot in 2014. If passed, it will decriminalize cannabis consumption and production.

Judge Gray received 357 out of 600 votes in the first round of balloting (59 percent), to become our Vice Presidential nominee.

“With Governor Gary Johnson, I am determined to bring back prosperity and liberty to the United States of America,” said Judge Gray.

Battle for party leadership erupts

After the congenial elections for president and vice president had ended and C-SPAN had packed its gear and left, the fireworks began.

NOTA (none of the above) proved to be a factor in the Libertarian Party Chair race, preventing either of the two declared candidates, incumbent Vice Chair Mark Rutherford of Indiana and incumbent Chair Mark Hinkle of California, from being able to attain a majority. First round balloting resulted in 41.3% for Mark Ruth-

erford and 40.1% for Mark Hinkle, with NOTA taking 18%. On round 2 balloting (with Mark Hinkle dropped from the ballot), after multiple challenges and a full re-vote of the same ballot, round 2 ended with Mark Rutherford at 50.0%, just shy of a majority, and NOTA at 49.8%.

Since the Chair and Vice Chair were both on the ballot, Chair Mark Hinkle had handed the gavel to former party Chair Bill Redpath, who led one of the most contentious elections in the party’s history. Considering the complexity of motions, votes, and recounting of votes that ensued, he met the challenge to keep order masterfully.

“That was the most challenging situation I have ever encountered during a convention,” Mr. Redpath said, who chaired both the 2008 and 2010 national conventions.

The race that was expected to end by mid-Saturday afternoon finally reached its conclusion late Sunday morning. After at least seven rounds of balloting and six at least seven motions to suspend the rules related to the Chair’s election, Geoffrey Neale, a software architect from Texas, was elected National Chairman for the Libertarian Party with 264 votes (62 percent). None of the Above (NOTA) finished second with 159 votes (37 percent).

Mr. Neale is well-known to party members. He served as Chairman for the party from 2002 to 2004 and was a member of the Libertarian National Committee for five terms. He was a manager of Michael J. Badnarik’s 2004 campaign for president.

His wife of 36 years, Nancy Neale, is a Libertarian veteran who has been a key organizer of several national conventions.

“2012 may be the party’s best year ever,” Mr. Neale said after his election. “Through our Libertarian candidates, we’ll offer voters a real choice for small government, freedom, prosperity and peace.”

After declining his nomination to serve as Chair, R. Lee Wrights of Texas was elected Vice Chairman with 52.5 percent of the vote. Mr. Wrights is founder and editor of *LibertyForAll.net*, a leading online libertarian newsletter.

Tim Hagan of Nevada was elected Treasurer, and Ruth Bennett of Arizona was elected Secretary.

Editor’s Note: Dwight Steffner, Max Kniazkov and Carla Howell contributed to this article.

The following officers of the Libertarian Party were elected at the 2012 Libertarian National Convention.

Officers & At Large:

LNC Chair - Geoffrey Neale

Vice Chair - Lee Wrights

Treasurer - Tim Hagan

Secretary - Ruth Bennett

At Large - Michael Cloud

At Large - Bill Redpath

At Large - Wayne Root

At Large - Starchild

At Large - Arvin Vohra

Region 1 - AK, AZ, CO, HI, ID, KS, MT, UT, WA, WY

Regional Rep - Norm Olsen

Alternate - Tony Ryan

Region 2 - FL, GA, TN

Regional Rep - Vicki Kirkland

Alternate - Richard Schrade

Region 3 - IN, KY, OH, MI

Regional Rep - Jillian A Mack

Alternate - Sam Goldstein

Region 4 - AR, CA, NV, NM, NY

Regional Rep - Dan Wiener

Alternate - Scott Lieberman

Regional Rep - Brett Pojunis

Alternate - Audrey Capozzi

Region 5N - CT, MA, ME, NH, NJ, RI, VT

Regional Rep - Rich Tomasso

Alternate - David Blau

Region 5S - DC, DE, MD, NC, PA, VA, WV

Regional Rep - James W. Lark III

Alternate - Scott Spencer

Region 6 - IL, IA, MN, MO, NE, ND, SD, WI

Regional Rep - Dianna Visek

Alternate - Michael Knebel

Region 7 - AL, LA, MS, OK, TX

Regional Rep - John Jay Myers

Alternate - TBD

Platform Changes Include Adding Ballot Initiatives to LP's Political Arsenal

Convention delegates adopted a handful of changes to the party's platform, leaveign most of it intact. Notably, the Libertarian Party added ballot initiatives to its political action arsenal, a way for voters to directly reduce the size, scope, authority, spending and taxation of government.

"We advocate initiative, referendum, recall and repeal when used as popular checks on government," states a new party platform, adopted at the Libertarian National Convention in Las Vegas. Citizen-sponsored ballot initiatives are currently used to seek direct popular approval of legislation in 24 states and the District of Columbia. They are also common at the local government level.

According to ballotpedia.org, 97 ballot questions have been certified for spots on 31 statewide ballots so far this year. Paul Jacob, a former member of the Libertarian National Committee and founder of the Citizens In Charge Foundation, called this LP platform amendment a "great thing."

"I applaud the party for doing that," he said, addressing Libertarian Convention delegates in Las Vegas at the Saturday morning breakfast. "I am excited and have been hoping for many conventions to see that happen." Mr. Jacob said that without ballot initiatives that help keep government in check, people were left only with legislatures, which pursue their own narrow interests.

"I know that the people can be wrong," he said. "But I am convinced that I am safer throwing myself on the mercy of the American people than pretending that somehow what is written in the American Constitution is going to stop a federal judge, a federal agency or a politician from doing



Paul Jacob, founder of the Citizens in Charge Foundation, addresses Libertarian activists at the National Convention.

what they ought not to do."

Mr. Jacob said the Libertarian Party cannot succeed without connecting with the American people and gaining their support through a democratic process.

"So, I say let's embrace it," he said of the ballot initiative idea. "In politics the straightest line is a ballot initiative...I am convinced it is the most powerful tool that we have to take back our country."

Another change was made in the platform plank dealing with education. The sentence, "Schools should be managed locally to achieve greater accountability and parental involvement" was replaced with, "restore authority to parents to determine the education of their children, without interference from government." Language was also added to clarify that this should not "be construed to condone child abuse or neglect."

Another change adopted by convention delegates added the language in the section on rights and discrimination regarding the condemnation of bigotry: "Libertarians embrace the concept that all people are born with certain inherent rights. We reject the idea that a natural right can ever impose an obligation upon others to fulfill that 'right.'"

parties to hold positions of trust or responsibility at the LP.

Two other proposals of the Bylaws and Rules Committee won the approval of delegates. One authorizes the National Committee to appoint an Assistant Treasurer. The other reduces the LNC mail ballot process from 15 to 10 days. In the end, three of the Committee's 10 proposals were approved by delegates.

LP Bylaws

...continued from page 3

party documents in between convention; a requirement for each convention delegate to be a sustaining member of the National LP or a member of the affiliate party in whose delegation he or she is seated; a ban on individuals with ties to other political

Michael Cloud: "Voting Libertarian is the Only Cure for Big Government"

Michael Cloud says, "Republicans have been false friends to free markets and tax cuts for too long." Adding, "they sell them out every time."

Cloud, a prominent libertarian strategist and author, issued a rousing appeal for support of Libertarian Party candidates in the upcoming elections, rejecting charges that they are 'spoilers.' "You can't spoil tainted meat," he said in his keynote address on May 3rd.

Cloud dispelled the notion that voting for Libertarian candidates this November would draw votes away from Republican candidates and help President Barack Obama and his Democratic allies.

"If Mitt Romney is elected President, he will make Obamacare permanent," said Cloud. "That's what he did in Massachusetts. That's what he'll do in D.C."

"What's worse than having a terminal disease?" he asked. "Having Republican politicians sell you snake-oil as cure -- and taking your tax money, too."

Republican politicians claim that Big Government is malfunctioning. "If only Republican politicians were in charge of Big Government, if only Republican policies guided Big Government, then we could get Big Government under control", they claim.

"But Big Government is not malfunctioning," Michael Cloud said. "It's functioning exactly the way it always functions. Big Government folds, spindles and mutilates our lives. And bankrupts our families. That's how Big Government functions," he said.

"Leading libertarian thinkers -- from Ayn Rand to Ludwig von Mises to Harry Browne -- have warned us that Big Government is unfixably, fatally flawed," he said.

"Then what is the solution to the disease of Big Government?" asked Mr. Cloud. "Dismantle it, liquidate it and give back every dime, every dollar to the working men and women who earned the money."



Libertarian strategist Michael Cloud delivers the keynote address at the 2012 Libertarian National Convention.

Democratic and Republican candidates for political office always say they want to go to Washington with "a pen to write new laws," he noted. "But Libertarians have a radically different approach."

"We're going to D.C. with an eraser," he said. "We are going to reduce or remove as much Big Government as we can, as fast as we can, as long as we can."

"We want to make government so small that they start putting its pictures on the side of milk cartons."

Republican politicians try to scare taxpayers and voters into supporting them. They tell us that President Obama is so bad that everybody needs to rally around the Republican presidential nominee.

"But the lesser of two evils is usually the greater evil," Cloud warned. "That's why we can't afford to vote for the Republican nominee for president."

"The only presidential vote worth casting this November is your vote for the Libertarian nominee."

Delegates of the Libertarian National Convention responded with thunderous applause when Cloud said, "Voting Libertarian means never having to say you're sorry."

Right-To-Carry Video Wins Top Prize in Libertarian Solutions Contest

by Max Kniazkov

Elizabeth Brierly of San Jose, Calif., won the 2012 Libertarian Solutions Video Contest after presenting a passionate, well-argued ad in defense of an individual's right to carry arms to protect his or her life, safety and property. Her win came with a \$500 cash prize.

Videos entered into the contest that made the final cut were presented on the main floor at the Libertarian National Convention in Las Vegas, played at the party's vendor booth at the convention, and posted at the LP.org website where members and convention attendees were invited to cast their votes for the best video. Ms. Brierly's video on Your Right of Self-Defense won with 28 percent of the vote.

"I'm thrilled!" Ms. Brierly said in a statement. "It was so much fun to participate in building this new tool for LP candidates -- yet another inspired project from the national LP office. Although the story and the sentiment were mine, I must say that the headquarters team deserves most of the credit for making me look and sound good."

Ms. Brierly has served as president of Silicon Valley Taxpayers Association, which is dedicated to protecting local tax-

payers' rights and interests against the over-reaching and over-spending of government. She also co-founded Induction Works Industries, a company that uses a patented method to find new libertarians and persuade them to support libertarian candidates, campaigns, and think-tanks.

"When my parents introduced me to the writings of Ayn Rand and Harry Browne at age twelve, I realized that what I'd always been had a name: libertarian," she said.

Stewart Flood of South Carolina came in second with his short, to-the-point video Why Vote Libertarian. "Vote your conscience," he declared. "Vote Libertarian."

Andrew Ian Dodge, Libertarian U.S. Senate candidate from Maine, was third with his video Pursuit of Happiness, a refreshing take on support of gay marriage based on this fundamental right established by the Declaration of Independence.

"While it's fun to pick a winner, every Libertarian Solution is a win because they make shrinking Big Government -- and expanding liberty -- possible," said Carla Howell, Executive Director of the Libertarian National Committee and organizer of the contest.

Libertarian State Rep candidate Barry Short made a compelling case in his Libertarian Solutions video for ending the rem-

nants of the Alcohol Prohibition in Utah. He proposed eliminating the state's Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control so that more restaurants and bars can open, generating 10,000 new jobs within five years -- without spending a single taxpayer dollar.

Another fine proposal was presented by Fred Stitt, who's an authority on energy systems. He argues that American consumers can cut their electric bills roughly in half by eliminating government-granted monopolies of the electrical generation and distribution industry. Free market competition will also conserve energy, saving enough electricity to power fourteen cities the size of New York City -- ever year.

Scott Spencer served as the "talking head" for Joseph Friedlander's Libertarian Solution to allow businesses to opt out of government regulations. Friedlander proposed a sweeping constitutional amendment to effectively nullify regulations at all levels of government, relying instead on market regulation and thereby giving buyers and sellers much more choice, lower costs and better quality. It was a refreshing turnabout from endless claims that government is the solution to every human problem.

James Andrews made a homemade video that calls for an end to state licensing of plumbers. He noted that this would sub-



Elizabeth Brierly, winner of the 2012 Libertarian Solutions Video Contest.

stantially cut the cost of hiring a plumber while creating jobs for qualified workers.

These are just a sampling of many more Libertarian Solutions to come, all of which explain how less government makes life better for everyday voters. More than eight additional videos have been produced at the Libertarian National headquarters and are now posted at the LP.org web site featuring spokespersons Arvin Vohra, Mark Grannis, Scott Spencer and Laura Delhomme.

To learn more, or to submit your idea for a Libertarian Solution, visit LP.org.

Calen Fretts Challenges Republican Incumbent for U.S. Congress Seat

His name recently graced the pages of *The New York Times* -- not a small feat for a young Libertarian challenging a well-entrenched Republican incumbent. In an article about Texas Congressman Ron Paul supporters making a push for political office, the newspaper pointed out that Libertarian Calen Fretts was "chipping away at Representative Jeff Miller in Florida's Panhandle," the powerful chairman of the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs who has been on Capitol Hill since 2001.

"The Constitution was written with the intent to put chains on the government, restraining it only to a small number of specifically enumerated powers," Fretts said, announcing his candidacy. "Now, though, the roles have been reversed.

He said the U.S. government was "a mess" and was ready to do something about it. Mr. Fretts compares out-of-control government spending and national debt to standing in a 100-foot-plus-deep hole and

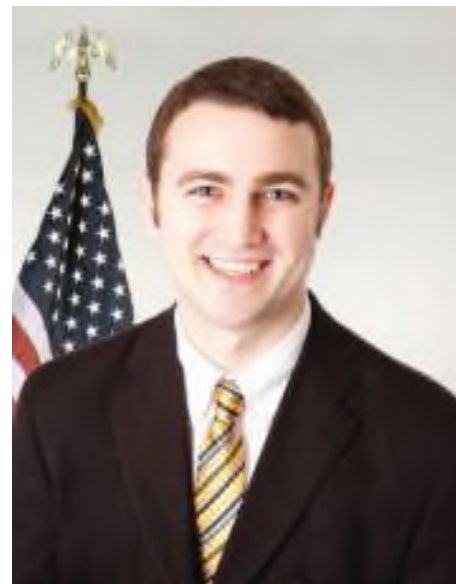
digging deeper.

"At this stage, 'cutting the deficit' means absolutely nothing," he says. "Eliminating the deficit is what's important."

If elected, Ms. Fretts plans to work to completely phase out deficit spending. He will work to block any new attempts to raise the debt ceiling in order to continue government's profligate spending.

In addition, he will fight for a balanced budget amendment to the Constitution, which he believed has now become a requirement for the long-term security of the US. "American families are expected to operate on balanced budgets, and 49 out of the 50 states have some form of balanced budget amendment," he notes. "We should demand that the federal government do the same."

Originally from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, Mr. Fretts has a degree in computer science from Virginia Tech and now lives in Valparaiso, Florida where he runs a small web development company called



Calen Fretts is running for U.S. Congress in Florida's first district. He faces Republican Jeff Miller.

Alpha Web Presence. He currently serves as the Vice Chair of the Libertarian Party of Okaloosa County. His website is <http://frettsforcongress.com>.

With Many Thanks...

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Carla Howell and Operations Manager Robert Kraus were always available with support and advice.

Cheryl Irwin, our decorator, also provided us our talented singer, Kayla Johnson Smith. Kayla's renditions of America the Beautiful and The Star Spangled Banner were so moving and added a patriotic note to the convention. Cheryl's decorations added sophistication and elegance to the main hall and our banquet. Stephen Gordon and his press/media crew did incredible work and I still have folks I meet telling me they read or saw references to the LP convention.

I am so grateful to everyone who put time, effort, treasure, energy and love into making our 2012 convention a success. I apologize to anyone whose name I left out

So, operationally, the convention went so much better than many had ever imagined.

Debate, or Dance

...continued from page 3

elimination of all corporate taxes, or a zero percent corporate rate.”

Bergland: *What about the federal taxes and the IRS?*

Wrights: “I would lower the income tax to nothing and there is no such thing as a ‘fair tax.’ We need tax cuts while slashing federal governments spending by 42%.

“Your money is bad money not worth the dollar it is printed on. I would restore hard money.”

Johnson: “I would abolish the IRS. Let us get rid of it. For my eight years as a governor taxes did not go up one cent.”

Bergland: What should the role be of the federal government in education?

Wrights: “I am against public education. I just don’t believe in child abuse. I would say take it out of the hands of the federal government and state governments as well. I have a daughter in North Carolina who was in a private school with it costing \$3,000 a year and the state needed \$9,000 for every child in public education. We can do it better than government, folks!”

Johnson: “I would abolish the Department of Education and bring education back to the states. I believe in school choice and really believe it improves education. In addition let us bring competition back into education.”

Bergland: What about housing and the federal government?

Wrights: “The federal government should simply get out of the way and that includes Freddie Mac and Fannie Mae. The problem was the federal government was helping people buy homes when half the people could not afford it in the first place.

Johnson: “I agree that the federal government caused this by making interest rates and terms completely unrealistic.

“On the other hand, this mortgage collapse is now an opportunity for millions to own homes, he said.”

On gun control

Wrights: Well, I don’t know about the rest of you, but it’s not a good idea to crawl in my window after midnight. I don’t dial 911.

The founders of this country knew what they were doing, and I have often said that the only mistake they have made in the Bill of Rights is that they put the first right wrong. The second Amendment should have been the first because without that, without

the ability to defend ourselves, all the other rights go away, folks.

The founders of this country did not institute the Second Amendment because they were afraid of their neighbors. They knew they needed them (the arms) to protect ourselves from government.

Johnson: I am not the guy who is going to sign off on legislation or promote legislation as to the number of bullets in the clip, the size of the gun, or the caliber of the weapon.

Bergland: *What about Ron Paul a former LP presidential candidate in 1988, a lifetime member of the Libertarian Party and speaker at many LP conventions? Is he a Libertarian?*

Wrights: “Absolutely he is. If he is honest he has nowhere else to go but the LP. As a Libertarian the Republican Party has let him down time and again.”

Johnson: “Dr. Paul asked for my endorsement in 1988 and he got it. As much as I like Dr. Paul, he needs to open up his heart and mind as he has opened up the hearts and minds of others. He needs to come out of the closet and rejoin the LP.”

Parts of closing statements

Wrights: “Regardless of the outcome tomorrow Lee Wrights and his staff go to work today to continue to do what we have been doing – trying to build this party, trying to find good candidates, train them. We are going to use our video techniques and our capability to continue to produce tools for the candidates of the Libertarian Party, tools we so sorely need. I can’t be anything else but a Libertarian, so I can’t go anywhere.

Because you are all here. I can’t imagine that I would ever do anything else except work for the party that I love, the family that I love. And I thank you all for coming tonight, for being here, for giving us the opportunity, the privilege and the honor to stand before you and even be considered for the highest office in the land. I have never been so honored as I am here tonight, standing next to Gov. Johnson.

Thank each and every one of you for being here, for what you do. Now I will continue what I do and help you (applause, ovation)

Johnson: “An essential question is how in 2012 can the Libertarian Party and the cause of liberty benefit? The Libertarian Party offers the best of the other two parties.

Johnson noted a report card by the ACLU gave him a score of 24, Ron Paul 18, President Obama 16 and Mitt Romney 0.

Barbara Howe Polling at 7% in NC Governor Race

North Carolina Libertarian candidate for Governor Barbara Howe is making news in her state. Two reputable polling companies -- SurveyUSA and Public Policy Polling -- have recently found she is getting seven percent support in her race against Republican Pat McCrory and Democrat Walter Dalton.

Howe suspects the reason for this polling success is a general dissatisfaction with the status quo. Currently, one in four voters in North Carolina is registered as Unaffiliated.

Ms. Howe is campaigning for reducing taxes, eliminating burdensome regulation, ending corporate welfare and reducing licensing requirements that stifle entrepreneurship in the state.

If elected, education will be one of the key issues in Howe’s administration. Education is the largest expense in the state budget, yet North Carolina education system fails to deliver on top quality education. “You can study all the numbers from many different sources and you get a different picture of how the schools perform. Those numbers don’t really paint a good picture. Nor a clear one. But simple logic tells me, as a parent, kids are different and trying to have a one size fits all education system to meet the needs of two million plus children just doesn’t fit the bill.”

Howe’s plan would be to implement a tuition tax credit scholarship plan in order to introduce greater school choice. “If North Carolina is going to tax its citizens to provide for education, it seems reasonable to give taxpayers greater options for how those education dollars are spent.”

Howe’s Tuition Tax Credit Scholarship Plan would allow any taxpayer to direct their tax dollars to provide a scholarship for any child to attend any school, be it government, private, or home school.

“The explosion of educational opportunities that will arise when the dollars are freed from the grips of education bureaucrats and politicians and placed in the hands of consumers will give parents greater choice of how to best provide for their children’s education.”

She has also vowed to work to repeal the recently-approved North Carolina marriage amendment that outlaws gay marriage. In protest over the passage of the amendment, on Tuesday, May 29, she and Tom Howe, her husband of 35 years, shredded



Barbara Howe, currently polling at 7 percent in her NC gubernatorial race, first made history in 2010 when she finished at 22% while running for the North Carolina General Assembly against an eleven-term incumbent.

their marriage license in front of the North Carolina Legislative Building. Several others joined in the shredding event.

“Native or immigrant, gay or straight, black or white, all people have the right to life liberty, and the pursuit of happiness,” Ms. Howe says. “Constitutions are to limit government, not people.”

Ms. Howe, 59, is a full-time homemaker, who has devoted much of her adult life to three causes she finds important: home schooling, volunteering for La Leche League -- an international support group for breastfeeding mothers -- and working for liberty through the Libertarian Party of North Carolina.

A four-term former LPNC state chair, Ms. Howe is making her third bid for governor. She ran for that office in 2000 and 2004, and in 1998 she was a candidate for the US Senate.

Barbara Howe made history in 2010, when she finished at 22% while running for the North Carolina General Assembly against eleven-term incumbent, James Crawford (D).

Mounting a true grassroots campaign this time around, Howe is planning to visit each of North Carolina’s 100 counties and complete a 5K run. “Approximately 50% of NC voters live in 15 counties. Many of the other counties get ignored. I will visit every one.”

Visit www.barbarahowe.net to learn more.

Dean Ahmad Seeks to Unseat Obama-Loyalist in U.S. Senate Race

by Max Kniazkov

Dean Ahmad, a prominent Palestinian-American scholar and Libertarian activist, has thrown his hat into the ring, running for U.S. Senate from heavily-Democratic Maryland. He is trying to unseat Democratic incumbent Ben Cardin ranked by *Congressional Quarterly* as the fifth most loyal supporter of President Barack Obama in the U.S. Senate.



Dean Ahmad

"We need to distinguish the 'free market' from the crony capitalism," Ahmad said, addressing a conference at the Loyola Institute for Ethics and Spirituality in Business. "Politically influential corporations in the Western world take advantage of the relationship between the American government and Third World dictators to enrich themselves and the dictators at the expense of American taxpayers and potential Third World entrepreneurs who are denied a place in the market."

Born en route to the United States when his family left Palestine in 1948, Ahmad is president of the Minaret of Freedom Institute, a libertarian Muslim think-tank, and the Islamic-American Zakat Foundation, a charitable organization, which helps poor Muslims in the United States.

He holds a doctoral degree in astronomy and astrophysics from the University of Arizona and teaches a course on Islam at Wesley Theological Seminary. Ahmad has written and spoken extensively on legal and religious freedoms in the Muslim world, property rights under Islam, the Middle East conflict, terrorism and American civil liberties.

Ahmad has been active in the Libertarian Party for many years. He has chaired the party's platform committee and was a member of the judiciary committee. He was also a member of Academics for Ron Paul when the Texas congressman ran for the 2008 presidential nomination.

Libertarians Recognized with Party's Highest Awards

by Kevin Knedler

During the National Convention at the Red Rock Casino near Las Vegas, the Libertarian Party honored five of its outstanding activists and inducted the inaugural class of the "Hall of Liberty."

"It was a great pleasure to recognize some of our most distinguished Libertarian Party members," noted Kevin Knedler, the chair of the awards committee. There were actually two committees for this convention. The committee of Knedler, Rebecca Sink-Burris, and Sam Goldstein worked on the member/activist awards. Mr. Knedler added, "We had a great list of nominations and it was a challenge to determine the award recipients." Besides a statuette, we added a medallion this year for the award winners.

The THOMAS JEFFERSON Leadership Award was presented to LP member whose achievements merit our recognition of outstanding leadership, high character, and dedication to the principles and goals of the Party. **Sharon Harris** of Georgia, was the unanimous choice for this award, which was presented by Jim Lark, LNC member. Sharon has been President of the Advocates for Self-Government since 1995.

The THOMAS PAINE Communication Award was presented to the LP member who has been an outstanding com-



Ed Clark, the Libertarian Party's third presidential candidate (1980), accepts the "Hall of Liberty" award.

municator of Libertarian ideas, principles, and values through written, published, or spoken communications. **Jim Lark** of Virginia, was the unanimous choice for this award, which was presented by Mark Rutherford of Indiana and Bob Johnston, chair of the Libertarian Party of Maryland. Jim presently is a region member of the LNC, and former national chair. Jim is the only

person to have won the Jefferson, Adams, and Paine Awards.

The SAMUEL ADAMS Activism Award was presented to the LP member who has been a very effective activist by building Party membership, organizing community outreach, or communicating

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A Smorgasbord of Libertarian Talks, Topics and Training

Ed Clark, the 1980 Libertarian Presidential Nominee, who holds the record for the highest vote total of any presidential candidate in our party's history, and **David Bergland**, the 1984 Presidential Nominee who moderated the presidential debate, were among the distinguished speakers at the 2012 Libertarian National Convention in Las Vegas.

Tonie Nathan, the first woman in America to receive an electoral vote and the party's 1972 Vice Presidential nominee, announced the winner of our presidential nomination, Governor Gary Johnson. She was also one of five Libertarians inducted into the Hall of Liberty (see page 11).

At the Welcome Reception on Wednesday evening, May 2, Ms. Nathan recounted stories of Libertarian party history along with five other Libertarian Heroes: Ed Clark; former National Libertarian Chairwoman **Alicia Clark**, David Bergland, and **Reason Foundation** co-found-



A panel of elected Libertarians discussed the challenges of implementing a Libertarian agenda in office. From left to right, moderator Pat Dixon of Texas; panelists Andy LeCureaux of Michigan, Judge John Buttrick of Arizona, Erik Viker of Pennsylvania and Todd Grayson of Ohio (not pictured).

ers **Robert Poole** and **Manny Klausner**.

Long-time Libertarian campaign strategist and persuasion guru **Michael Cloud** opened the convention with his riveting keynote address, "Big Government is the Disease – and Libertarians Have the Only Cure."

He also led a training session for Libertarian candidates on "How to Easily Fundraise \$10,000 for Your LP Campaign in Just 4 Evenings," and he emceed the banquet dinner and fundraiser on Saturday

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An Interview with 2012 LP Presidential Nominee Governor Gary Johnson

On May 5, the Libertarian Party nominated former New Mexico Governor Gary Johnson for President of the United States. Shortly after accepting the nomination, *LP News* sat down with Johnson to discuss his campaign:

LP News: If someone were going to vote for Mitt Romney what would you say?

Gary Johnson: I would say do not do it, vote for me instead! The Republican Party used to be somewhat financially conservative but not so much so anymore.

LPN: If someone were going to vote for President Obama what would you say?

Johnson: Again, the same thing, do not do it but vote for me instead. The Democratic Party used to be somewhat personal rights oriented, but again, not so much so anymore. If there is one thing that has changed completely in my lifetime it is the two so-called major political parties. For example, the Republicans are just as much for big government as the Democrats.

It is true, I was elected twice in eight years as governor of New Mexico as a Republican, but really the whole time I was under the guise of being Republican while really being a libertarian and sometimes voting for libertarian candidates. For example in 1984 I voted for LP candidate David Bergland for president because President Ronald Reagan kept increasing the national debt.

The Libertarian Party is taking the best of both the (old) parties by really being good with civil liberties and good with financial responsibility.

LPN: What is different about this election?

Johnson: Some election polls show up to 80 percent would consider voting third party. So this is a real opportunity. If I can gain up to 15 percent in the polls I would be able to be included in the presidential debates. If that is not achieved, at 5 percent there would be the possibility of the LP receiving up to \$98 million to the

party in federal funds awarded in the next election cycle.

LPN: What about those who say Mr. Romney is the true conservative for liberty and he is the only one who can beat Mr. Obama?

Johnson: Mr. Romney is really poor on civil liberties and horrible on finances and cuts (spending). He wants to do things like keeping Medicare intact while increasing military spending. It doesn't add up.

LPN: Who do you think was a good president of the United States?

Johnson: The first person I think about is Thomas Jefferson, who is my personal hero, someone who was humble while serving the people. I particularly like the story told of his first inaugural when he was riding his horse and saw a man walking and having trouble going across a river. So Jefferson asked if he needed help he said "yes" and that he was walking to the inaugural. So the future president let him ride with him on the back of his horse.

LPN: You favor the legalization of marijuana. Do you think this could get you more votes with younger voters especially in colleges and universities?

Johnson: I certainly hope so and I think that is a possibility.

LPN: Why are you qualified to be president?

Johnson: Because I really want this job so the desire is there. I am a reality thinker who gets things done. I believe if we deliver the Libertarian message people might really now be willing to listen and vote. But who really knows?

Win or lose, this is the time to present the Libertarian message as a new message of more freedom, less government and more individual responsibility, not just the failure of present government.

LPN: Thank you for your time, Governor Johnson.

Gary Johnson in the Media



Libertarian Party Presidential Nominee Gary Johnson sits down with CNN's Erin Burnett to discuss his 2012 campaign to defeat Mitt Romney and Barack Obama.

- "I Will End the War in Afghanistan." **Huffington Post**, May 25, 2012
- "Gary Johnson blows up a watermelon." **Politico**, May 17, 2012
- "Libertarian Johnson makes explosive point in new ad." **The Washington Times**, May 17, 2012
- "Can Ron Paul supporters accept Gary Johnson?" **The Washington Times**, May 15, 2012
- "Gary Johnson could catch presidential race by surprise." **Fox News**, May 12, 2012
- "Governor Johnson, California Judge Gray Nominated." **The Saint Joseph Telegraph**, May 12, 2012
- "Gary Johnson on Washington Journal." **C-Span**, May 11, 2012
- "Campaign rally for Gray is Saturday." **The Daily Pilot**, May 11, 2012
- Gary Johnson on "Erin Burnett Outfront." **CNN**, May 10, 2012
- "Gary Johnson: The Libertarian leading man?" **MSNBC-TV**, May 8, 2012
- "Gary Johnson on Running as the Libertarian Nominee." **Fox Business Network**, May 7, 2012.
- "Former New Mexico Gov. Gary Johnson wins Libertarian nomination." **The Associated Press**, May 6, 2012
- "New Libertarian Nominee Gary Johnson Slams Republicans For Gay Staffer Flap." **The Huffington Post**, May 6, 2012
- "Gary Johnson Wins Libertarian Nod for President." **The Wall Street Journal**, May 5, 2012
- "Gary Johnson wins Libertarian Party presidential nomination." **CNN**, May 5, 2012
- "Libertarians nominate ex-Governor Gary Johnson for president." **Reuters**, May 5, 2012
- Gary Johnson on the Cavuto show. **Fox Business Network**. Apr. 22, 2012
- "For Gary Johnson it's all about the 'Libertarian' message." **The Washington Times**, Apr. 22, 2012
- Gary Johnson on the Colbert Report. **Comedy Central**, Apr. 2, 2012

Will You Be One of the Top Ten Libertarian Candidates in the Next Issue of *LP News*?

We'll list our Top Ten 2012 Candidates in the next issue of *LP News* in each of the following categories: 1) most funds raised from others; 2) most voters reached in person going door-to-door or who attended events where candidates were a featured speaker; 3) best Libertarian Solutions as defined at LP.org. Please keep us posted on your progress by sending your campaign stats to news@lp.org.

Speaker Smorgasbord

...continued from page 8

night of the convention.

Austin Petersen, former Associate Producer for **Judge Napolitano's Freedom Watch** TV show on Fox Business News – perhaps the most libertarian prime-time television show ever aired – gave a talk on Sunday morning on how Libertarians can get on TV.

Dr. Tibor

Machan, a professor of philosophy at Chapman University and author of several books on libertarianism, wowed the Thursday luncheon crowd

with his blunt, highly entertaining insistence that Libertarians shouldn't be shy about showing emotion when evangelizing for liberty.

"Liberty is of great value and of great pride," he said. "Show people what liberty is. Stand up for it. Have a deep seated passion for it."

Dr. Machan blasted Democrats, who, in his view, promote a bankrupt statist model of governance.

"Liberals are not progressives," he stated. "They are reactionaries who want more state. They do not favor progress."

Alexander McCobin, co-founder and president of **Students For Liberty** made two presentations appealing to young Libertarians, including how to form groups on university campuses.

On Thursday morning, Libertarian National Party Executive Director **Carla Howell** led a seminar on how to craft a compelling Libertarian Solution that can be used in campaigns to sell both the Libertarian Party and Libertarian candidates effectively.

"Ms. Howell shows the way with an objective mantra: Problem-Solution-Benefit -- a winning strategy in any realm of human endeavor and one that ultimately will revolutionize politics," said LP member Fred Stitt who attended the seminar.

On Wednesday before the official opening of the convention, **Chuck Muth**, a former executive director of the American Conservative Union, on behalf of the LNCC led a full day of classes on the nuts-and-bolts of campaigning for Libertarian candidates.



Alexander McCobin

Carissa Pillow, Libertarian candidate for Brentwood City Council in California, was thankful for the support and training she received.

"The event was very timely since I will be going full force in my campaign after we pull papers in July," she said. "It was reassuring to know that many of the strategies I already have in place are aligned with strategies that create a winning campaign. I also learned new strategies for fundraising and getting the right voters out that I will be using in my campaign. I am out here to score a big WIN for the LP in November."

Andy McKean, founder of the non-profit **Liberty Day**, talked about ways his organization informs American school children of the content and meaning of the U.S. Constitution.

Norma Jean Almodovar, author of the bestselling book "Cop to Call Girl" who ran for lieutenant governor of California in 1986 receiving over 100,000 votes and who was the headline speaker at the Friday luncheon, told tales of police corruption and the importance of personal freedom.

Her fascinating yet sobering testimony illustrated the futility of laws against victimless crimes. "Bad laws are arbitrary and also are about selective enforcement," she said.

David Bergland led a talk on the basic philosophical tenets of libertarianism, and **Dr. Nancy Lord**, the 1992 Libertarian vice presidential candidate, spoke about the dangers of FDA regulations.

Attendees listened intently to a presentation on how government regulations stifle the economy given by businesswoman and principal of Meritas Advisors, **Lenore Hawkins** on Friday. Ms. Hawkins is a frequent guest on The Cavuto Show on Fox Business News.

Rupert Boneham, favorite of the TV show *Survivor*, talked about his race for governor in Indiana. **Judge John Buttrick**, a Libertarian who serves on the Superior Court in Maricopa County, Arizona, took aim at U.S. foreign policy in his talk titled "The Morality, Legality and Politics of War."



Lenore Hawkins

Activists Honored With Top Honors

...continued from page 8

Libertarian principles. **Clyde Garland** of Texas, was the choice for this award, which was accepted by Pat Dixon, the Chair of the Libertarian Party of Texas.

This year we began a new award. There were actually two **PATRICK HENRY** Candidate Awards presented to LP members who have been very effective candidates for public office at the state or federal level, while communicating Libertarian ideas, principles, and values. Nominees can from the election range of this year to the past two years. **Lex Green** of Illinois and **Travis Irvine** of Ohio won the awards. Lex ran a more traditional, but highly effective campaign for Governor in 2010. Julie Fox presented the award to Lex. Meanwhile, Travis ran a non-traditional campaign, using social media and videos, in his race for US Congress in the Ohio 12th district in 2010. Wes Benedict and Nigel Lyons presented the award to Travis.



Travis Irvine

"Hall of Liberty" Awards

A second awards committee focused on the newly created "Hall of Liberty" awards. Joining Kevin Knedler on this committee were Dr. Mary Ruwart, Dr. James Lark, Bill Redpath, and Rebecca Sink-Burris. All were members of the LNC during the 2010-2012 term. In discussing these awards, Mr. Knedler stated that "we

established this program in our 40th anniversary year to honor lifetime or significant achievement that has made a lasting impact upon the Libertarian Party and/or the libertarian movement.

Our inaugural class of inductees consists of: **David Nolan**, one of the founders of the LP and long-time LP activist. The award was presented by Dr. Ruwart to **Elizabeth Nolan**. John Hospers, professor of philosophy and first LP presidential candidate in 1972. The award was presented by Kevin Knedler. Tonie Nathan, first LP vice-presidential candidate and first woman to receive an electoral vote. The award was presented to Tonie by Dr. Lark. **Roger MacBride**, second LP presidential candidate (1976) and the elector who cast the vote for Hospers/Nathan in 1972. The award was presented by Rebecca Sink-Burris. **Ed Clark**, third LP presidential candidate (1980) and to date, the most successful LP presidential candidate in regards to vote total. The award was presented to Mr. Clark, by Bill Redpath.

Included in the presentations were video clips prepared by Nigel Lyons, Nick Dunbar and Carla Howell at the national headquarters.

Mr. Knedler closed the awards by stating, "It is important that we recognize those who have made tremendous contributions to the Libertarian Party". He also noted that the LNC saw fit to add the awards committee to the LNC Policy Manual with a set of parameters and guidelines, further insuring that the program will continue into the future.



Sharon Harris

Scheduled Changes in LP Membership Levels Postponed

The new Libertarian National Committee, meeting in Las Vegas, Nevada on May 6, voted overwhelmingly to postpone implementation of changes in the structure of membership levels that were adopted in 2011 until at least Jan. 1, 2013.

The changes in the membership structure had been previously scheduled to take effect on July 1, 2012. The current membership levels that remain in effect

are:

- Basic, \$25 annual dues;
- Regular, \$50 annual dues;
- Supporting, \$100 annual dues;
- Sponsor, \$250 annual dues;
- Patron, \$500 annual dues;
- Torch Club (Life Member), \$1,000 in dues, or contributions prior 12 months;
- Chairman's Circle, \$5,000 in dues, or contributions since the last convention.

Ruling Leaves Libertarian Unopposed for State House

Libertarian Jeremy Walters of Fort Mill, South Carolina is currently the only candidate on the ballot for State House District 26 due to a ruling by the state's Supreme Court on May 2nd that knocked nearly 200 candidates across the state off the ballot, including the other four Libertarians running for the State House and his Republican opponent Raye Felder.

Walters' campaign slogan declares "a vote for Jeremy is a vote to end the income tax, legalize business, and protect your property rights!"

Although Felder can no longer run as a Republican, Walters could still face her on the November 6th ballot without party affiliation if she collects petition signatures totaling 5% of voters in the district (about 2,000 signatures) by July 16th. The Democratic Party has not said whether it will also run a petition candidate in the district.

The court's ruling is based on the candidates' failure to file an ethics form by the legal deadline in both hardcopy and electronic form. Democrats and Republicans affected by the ruling are appealing the decision on grounds that communications from the state about the filing requirement were ambiguous.

Jeremy Walters initially announced he would run on the Republican ticket. After GOP leadership discouraged him from run-

ning, he sought the Libertarian Party nomination instead which he won unanimously after delivering a passionate speech at the party's state convention on April 21.

A businessman and carpenter, Walters became an advocate for child custody rights after the family court system denied him joint custody of his son. His successfully lobbying for a custody bill that he championed which has now passed in the state senate. His efforts and enthusiasm prompted State Senator John Knotts to call Walters a "pit bull" and the right man for the job.

While Jeremy Walters' passion for parental rights led to his decision to run for office, he intends to focus his campaign on Libertarian proposals that appeal to a broad spectrum of voters. To learn more visit WaltersForHouse.com.



Jeremy Walters

'Gentle Giant' for Indiana Governor



Rupert Boneham

The "Gentle Giant" of Survivor fame is back in the game. This time, though, he set his sights on the Indiana governor's mansion and is determined to single-handedly throw the major political tribes off the island.

Rupert Boneham, 48, will appear on the Indiana ballot this fall as the Libertarian Party nominee for governor, running against Republican Congressman Mike Pence and Democrat John Gregg, a former speaker of the Indiana House of Representatives. Boneham has already raised ten of thousands of dollars from fans and on his web site, rupertforgovernor.com. He plans to travel to all of 92 Indiana counties to bring to voters the libertarian message of a much smaller and more tolerant state government.

Boneham is a three-time participant of the CBS reality show Survivor, who has been voted Fan Favorite and awarded a \$1 million prize. In real life, he is an Indianapolis-based small business owner, who also works with troubled kids, helping them get back on the right path.

According to Boneham, his main task as Indiana's next governor will be creating a business environment that encourages entrepreneurship and business growth and ushering in a new era of fiscal responsibility.

Of the three candidates for Governor, Boneham is the only to be on the record opposing a Gay Marriage Amendment, which would introduce discrimination into the Indiana Constitution. Rupert Boneham will appear in three statewide debates this fall sponsored by the non-partisan Indiana Debate Commission.

You can find more information about Rupert Boneham at his website, www.rupertforgovernor.com.

David Moran for West Virginia Governor

How has a naval engineer with a Ph.D. in hydrodynamics ended up running a sheep and alpaca farm on a West Virginia mountain surrounded by generations of farmers? David Moran is a strong believer in his community.

"Every aspect of life centers within and around the community," he says. "It survives and thrives on the foundation of local interest and commitment by the people. Local control over community issues has no substitute in government." Now Dr. Moran wants to serve his community as governor of West Virginia, an economically-troubled state run by Democratic incumbent Earl Ray Tomblin, who is seeking another term in office.

Dr. Moran is determined not to let this happen. "West Virginia is a Libertarian state...the people all believe and practice the principles of Libertarianism without realizing it," he said.

If elected, Dr. Moran promises to eliminate the state personal income tax, allowing taxpayers to save a total of \$1.6 billion a year, and dramatically cut the state government bureaucracy, which will allow each taxpayer to save up to \$2,717 annually.

He will also move to repeal all laws that impede the ability of any person to find employment and support the right of free citizens to enter into labor associations or stay away from them. "The minimum wage requirements imposed upon the state will be



Dr. David Moran

abolished," he told *LP News*. "Every 10-percent increase in the minimum wage results in a three-percent decline in employment. West Virginians need jobs, income, employment, and an economic future. They must have the right to compete for any job available at an income they decide is appropriate to availability and their needs."

Dr. Moran believes West Virginia must become a progressive "right-to-work" state with the freedom of collective bargaining available to the citizenry, but never forced upon or mandated to the people.

He stands for abolishing all enforced union membership and dues collection in all industries. "West Virginia, as a free right-to-work state, will attract new industrial de-

velopment that would otherwise accrue to other more business friendly states," said the candidate. "Right-to-work coupled with a new industrial tax basis that ends taxation on productivity will attract traditional and high-technology capital to the state."

Dr. Moran operates the Crimson Shamrock Farm, where his large flock of sheep and alpacas peacefully graze on 120 acres of Preston County mountain slopes.

"Politics is a lot like farming," he says. "You have great expectations but little control over the environment. Success is determined by hard work and dedication to your objectives ... but the results can always surprise you."

He dedicated himself to farming after retiring from the Navy where he designed ships for special operations and served in numerous professional and technical management positions for several government agencies. He has also served as professor at the US Naval Academy and at several other universities. Dr. Moran is a graduate of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and earned a Ph.D. in hydrodynamics from the University of Iowa.

He is married to Lori Wall and has two children. His son is Navy Captain serving as an EA6B Pilot with the U.S. Navy, while his daughter was a CIA agent in the mid-east. He has three grandsons and one granddaughter.

Dr. Moran's website is <http://www.dm4gov.com>.

AFFILIATE NEWS AND EVENTS

Affiliate news and events are provided to LP News by Libertarian Party state affiliates.

Illinois

Party Seeks to Overtun Ballot Access Laws

After a slow start in the first half of the state ballot drive, petitioning activity in Illinois is rapidly picking up pace. LP members from Indiana have offered to cross the border to help. Volunteers, some new to the LP, have offered their services to help Gary Johnson as well as local candidates get on the ballot.

The Wrights 2012 campaign, although ended in terms of its Presidential bid, has carried on its commitment to ballot status by starting the Occupy Ballot Access project, which provides on-the-ground volunteer ballot access signatures and also on-line support in locating volunteers in those states. Illinois is the first state involved in this project.

Festival season has started in the Chicago area. Petitioning opportunities abound throughout the state this Memorial Day weekend and throughout the month of June. Places to petition are posted regularly on the LP Illinois Facebook page. Petitioning will be wrapping up the weekend of June 23-24. Thanks to Political Division Director Lex Green and local LP candidates for all their hard work.

In addition to Gary Johnson & Judge Gray, we are also gathering petition signatures for Doug Marks and Chad Grimm. Doug Marks is running in a two-way race for State Senate in the 33rd District. He is currently a Trustee on the Carpentersville Village Board. He ran for Congress in the 14th District in 2010. Marks is required to submit a minimum of 3,000 valid signatures.

Chad Grimm is running for Illinois state representative in the 92nd district, which includes Peoria. He has experience on several campaigns and is putting that to work for his own campaign. He has a single opponent in this race which promises to bring him a lot of votes. Grimm is currently concentrating on collecting more than the required 1,500 signatures so he can leverage his ballot presence into media attention and campaign appearances after June 25th.

Also on the ballot access front, LP Illinois is being represented by Gary Sinawski in a lawsuit challenging three aspects of Il-

linois' onerous ballot access laws. We are challenging the (90-day) length of the petition period, the ambiguity in the law regarding the number of required signatures for third-party and independent candidates for county and Congressional races, and the slate requirement for county-wide and state-wide races.

Maryland

Setback with Court Ruling

On May 21, the highest state court in Maryland, the State Court of Appeals, interpreted Maryland election law to mean that signatures on petitions are invalid if there is no exact match in the name on the voter registration record, and the name on the petition. As a result, the Libertarian Party does not have enough valid signatures on their petitions for 2012, and must now get more before the August 6 deadline.

Maryland requires 10,000 signatures for ballot access for new parties. The Libertarian Party is now deemed to have only 7,266 valid signatures. Thanks to Mark Grannis who created a video with help from Nigel Lyons at the LP Headquarters to explain to volunteers how to fill out petition forms correctly so we can collect the signatures we now need.

The Court took pains to say that it is not deciding whether the strict standard is constitutional or not. It says it cannot decide that question because the case was not presented to it as a constitutional question. Reading between the lines, it is overwhelmingly likely that the Court decided this case in this hostile manner because the judges are not sympathetic to various referendum petitions being circulated. The judges probably believe that the Libertarian and Green Parties, and other minor parties, will be able to qualify despite the ruling, because the number of valid signatures they still need is a small number. The real impact of this decision will be to make it extremely difficult for referendum petitions to succeed, including one that would put same-sex marriage to a popular vote. Referendum petitions covering statewide issues need approximately 60,000 valid signatures.

On a more positive note, the Maryland Libertarian Party became the first "third" party in Maryland to exceed 10,000 registrations as of April 30, 2012!

Missouri

Libertarian Float Stars in Memorial Day Parade

The Missouri LP held a joint convention with the LP of Kansas, the Heartland Convention, in Kansas City in late March. The well-attended convention featured an elected Libertarians panel, a presidential debate and an impressive line up of speakers, including Austin Petersen, former producer of "Freedom Watch" and Dave Roland of the Freedom Center of Missouri.

The Missouri LP has equal ballot access with the older parties and is pleased to have a full slate of Libertarians for all state-wide races, including Governor, Lt. Governor, Secretary of State, Treasurer and Attorney General. The party is also fielding a full slate of Libertarians for eight congressional seats and one US Senate seat, as well as a number of state assembly and local candidates. While the Missouri LP has long had a presence at the state fair, this year, the party has upgraded its location and space to be directly across the main thoroughfare from the two older parties. Plans are underway to promote the candidates at several other events during the summer season as well.

Montana

Libertarian Float Stars in Memorial Day Parade

The Ravalli County Libertarian party entered a float in the Corvallis Memorial Day Parade on May 28. In 2008 the Ravalli group took first place in the political division as well as best of show that year. This year the group had three entries, including several candidates who participated. Those candidates, included Karen Fisher (House District 87), Steve Rodriguez (House District 88) Mike Fellows (MT Clerk of Supreme Court) and Dan Cox (U.S. Senate). We passed out candy and information.

Nina Johnson would like to get a meetup in Billings. members can contact chair Mike Fellows (votefellows@aol.com) for more information.

Secretary of State Roger Roots appeared in a Hamilton forum on May 24th. Roger was one of 4 candidates on stage. About 100 people were in attendance.

The Montana Libertarian Party would like to thank those who came down to the 2012 national convention. Those included Tim Lohman, Nina Webb, Roger Roots, Mike Fellows and Marc Mulcahy.

New York

Convention Opens Doors to Like-Minded Organizations

LPNY held its annual State convention on April 21 (one week early due to Nat/Con's early date this year) and hosted a rousing debate between four of the candidates for POTUS. Lee Wrights, Gary Johnson, Carl Person and Jim Burns participated. Straw poll put Johnson ahead but the debate may have caused the large number of LPNY delegates to national, especially since it was so far away from the Empire State. Candidates: Chris Edes, Dan halloran and Rick Witt are seeking national office in the state, to date.

Conventions are scheduled on Long Island and in Manhattan in June. County and city candidates will be selected at convention. The Long Island convention is hosting speakers from Norml, Long Island and Fair-Tax, as is their modus operandi. The theory is to have speakers from like minded (even if only on a single issue) organizations to speak to our group. They usually bring a few of their members to meetings or conventions.

This, of course, increases our fund raising efforts. But, more importantly, it exposes new people to our ideas and principles. And with Gary Johnson as our POTUS candidate these two organizations are likely to increase membership or help petition (even if only to sign since NY has the most draconian ballot access laws thanks to the Demopublicans on the election board). We are often invited to address their organization in the near future! And, guess what? We comply.

North Carolina

Party Plots to Take Advantage of Democratic Convention Coming to Town

NC has much happening. We appointed a new Communications Director, Greta Langhenry, who came to us from the same position in GA. Greta is also interested in developing the UNC-Asheville student group.

We also appointed a new County Affiliates organizer, Phillip Batten. Phillip just established the Catawba County affiliate and we will develop a template/kit for new county affiliates to use. We have prospective organizers for several counties.

Next meeting, June 23, we expect to appoint a Political Director with extensive

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AFFILIATE News And Events

...continued from page 12

experience in that position. We may also hire a part-time Executive Director at the June or July meeting.

NC has 16 candidates across the state for offices from President to local offices.

Finally, LPNC is strategizing how to best take advantage of the Democratic Convention being held in Charlotte in August. Socially tolerant Democrats who understand the fiscal realities we must face over the next few years are one of our largest target markets. Ideas and suggestions are welcome.

Ohio

Great Attendance and Great Results at State Convention

The Ohio LP held its most successful state convention in memory on March 30, 31, and April 1 in Columbus. Nearly 100 people attended. Thank you for the hard work by Jillian Mack and Bob Bridges, who coordinated the event.

Congratulations to Travis Irvine, 2010 candidate for US Congress in District 12 for winning the "Patrick Henry Award" at the National Convention, recently held at the Red Rock Casino in Las Vegas. Travis ran a non-traditional campaign, which included the now famous videos.

The Ohio LP is much better prepared to help the LP POTUS candidate in 2012 vs 2008. In election year 2008, we had two people working the campaign on a statewide level and 6 local contact groups. Since that time, we have created a Field Development Division, with region and county coordinators. For the 2012 campaign of Gary Johnson, we have 8 state and regional leaders, plus 15 local affiliates and county coordinators.

On June 2, the Ohio LP held a coordinated event at Mohican Lodge, bringing together the LP Field Development Team, local affiliates and county coordinators, and the Gary Johnson Ohio teams. It was a full day of setting plans, building strategy, and teambuilding. The LPO provided lunch for all the participants. About 40 people attended this invitation-only event. The LPO urges all affiliates to sponsor similar events with the GJ coordinators.

The Ohio LP now has a IT Director. Scott Pettigrew, of SW Ohio has agreed to

lead the IT Division for the state party. The work will include the web site, database, phone system, and email lists. IT is of huge importance to the success of the Ohio LP.

For the first time in over a year, all Divisions of the Ohio LP are being led by Directors: IT- Scott Pettigrew; Communication-Aaron Harris; Field Development-Michael Johnston; Political- Bob Bridges; and Finance- Jillian Mack. Thank YOU all for the leadership!

Pennsylvania

New State Chairman Elected

New officers were elected at the State Convention held in Wilkes-Barre, PA. Dr. Tom Stevens, Chair of the Northampton County LP (the first group in the country to endorse Gary Johnson for the LP Presidential Nomination) was elected State Chair; Jim Fryman was elected Western Vice-Chair; Betsy Summers was elected Eastern Vice-Chair; Erik Viker was elected Secretary & Patti Fryman was elected Treasurer.

Dr. Stevens, who served as LPPA Delegation Chair at the LPUS Convention in Las Vegas, has recommended new initiatives to reach out to College Students and Young Professionals in the Commonwealth and to put more effort into Chapter Development & Candidate Recruitment.

Any Pennsylvania Libertarian interested in taking an active role in the party should contact Dr. Tom Stevens, LPPA State Chair, directly by cell at 718-357-7075 or by e-mail at DrTomStevens@aol.com.

Rhode Island

Convention to Feature 2012 Election Plans

On Monday, June 25th, at 6:30 pm, The Libertarian Party of Rhode Island will be meeting to formally start our 2012 election season.

We shall be meeting at the Sonoma Grille, at 7366 Post Road, in North Kingstown, Rhode Island.

Show up to learn all about our 2012 LPRI election plans. All LPRI members, and all Rhode Island friends of liberty are invited to attend.

Libertarian candidates for elective

office, and potential Libertarian candidates for office are particularly welcome to attend! See you all there!

Texas

Texas Libertarians Load the Ballot Again

Despite a redistricting fiasco in Texas that caused utter confusion and chaos, the Libertarian Party of Texas will again place candidates in all statewide races, nearly every US Congressional race, and many other state and local races. The complete list is online at <http://LPTexas.org/node/59>.

"We have made the best of a nearly impossible situation," says state chair Pat Dixon. "Thanks go to all of our candidates, staff, county affiliates, and our credentials committee for running this gauntlet successfully."

In a normal election year, candidates in Texas file for a particular office based on their residency in a particular district. The Texas Legislature produced new district maps in 2011 which were challenged in Federal court.

The process resulted in candidates unable to file for office since they did not know their district. Continual delays resulted in changing deadlines and convention uncertainty. When the final court ruling came down, it left ambiguity for the Libertarian Party and a short filing period for candidates to determine their new districts in time to be nominated at the county and district level conventions.

"The redistricting process under control of our opponents is clearly flawed and needs to be replaced" says Dixon. "That starts by replacing incumbents with Libertarians."

Utah

New Changes to Party Leadership

The Utah LP has made some great additions to our executive committee and Directors. Patrick Powers has stepped down from his role as Vice Chair to focus on the Utah Liberty Institute, we thank him for his service and wish him well in his pursuits.

In his place we have appointed former California activist Mark Hilgenberg. Mark held several party positions back in California and most recently he has been our Outreach Coordinator promoting liberty within OccupySLC and Move to Amend SLC.

Katie White has been made our Event

Director, she has done event coordination for several non-profit organizations and we look forward to having her work with us.

The Utah State Director for the Gary Johnson Campaign, Kenny Barlow has agreed to become our Media Director. Kenny was instrumental in the streaming of our state convention live over the internet and making quality recordings of the whole convention available on our website, www.utahlp.org.

Our state Chair Jake Shannon has been hard at work promoting Liberty on his radio show "Mental Self Defense" aired locally on AM 630 K-Talk. Jake is a consistent unapologetic voice for liberty and he has had some top tier guests including, Dr. Thomas Szasz, Neil Howe, Sheriff Mack plus our own Gary Johnson and Judge Jim Gray.

Jake can be heard live anywhere in the country from their website www.k-talk.com. Check out his archive for past shows.

Washington

Libertarians Join Democrats to Challenge "Top 2" Primary System

Washington is working on getting Gov. Gary Johnson and Judge Gray on the ballot. We have petitioning events scheduled all over the state, events in Bellingham, Vancouver, Tri-Cities, Spokane, Kitsap Peninsula, Olympia and Seattle/Tacoma metro area.

For details check the LPWA.ORG website or the various Meetup.com groups. Every LP member should plan to come to one of the events to sign and volunteer some time to help make this drive a success. The LPWA also needs donations to help cover the costs of this event with published legal notices, event fees and other expenses, we will need what you can give.

The LPWA with the Democrat Party of Washington, has filed a petition to the US Supreme Court to hear the "Top-2" primary suit one more time. Thanks to the LNC for covering some of the expenses for this filing. Both the LPWA and LP National need donations to keep this action going in our attempt to overturn this corruption of the election system.

We have started a King County monthly mixer, the details are posted to the Seattle Libertarian Meetup group. This is an effort to organize and re-activate members in our largest county.

If you are in Washington but aren't a member of the LPWA, please visit the LPWA.ORG website to see how you can help, or email me at chair@lpwa.org

LIBERTARIAN PARTY SPEAKS OUT

Libertarian Party Chair Urges Marco Rubio: 'Withdraw Your Endorsement of Mitt Romney. He's a Big Government Politician.'

From a March 30, 2012
Press Release

Mark Hinkle, Libertarian Party Chair said: "With all due respect, Senator Rubio, you failed to do your homework. As an alleged 'Tea Party Republican,' your endorsement of Mitt Romney misleads the true Tea Partiers from coast to coast."

"Senator Rubio, you assert that Mitt Romney was a 'successful' governor in Massachusetts. Which part of Mitt Romney's record as Governor do you consider a success?"

Mitt Romney raised scores of taxes -- every year, all 4 years as Governor. Romney proposed and signed into law Massachusetts government spending hikes every single year he was Governor.

Romney boosted his state government spending by \$5 billion. Romney initiated, lobbied for and signed into law RomneyCare -- the father of ObamaCare -- and railroaded Republicans in the legislature to vote for it. Romney ushered in ObamaCare.

"If he's the Republican Presidential Nominee, he leaves Republicans no ground to oppose ObamaCare -- and is seen as a hypocrite when he pretends to oppose it. Romney endorsed and voted for New England's version of Cap and Trade. Romney passed enabling legislation that raised business property taxes. Romney 'Closed loopholes' to enforce sales tax collection on Internet purchases.

"Senator Rubio, please explain: If these Big Government Mitt Romney measures were a 'success' - what would failure look like?"

End Sanctions; Peace Through Free Trade

From a Feb. 16, 2012
Press Release

Libertarian National Committee Chair, Mark Hinkle, released the following statement today:

"As relations with Iran deteriorate, President Barack Obama and the Bipartisan Senate Committee are making things worse: inciting yet another war in the Middle East through economic sanctions.

"On February 2nd, 2012 the Senate Banking Committee unanimously approved increased sanctions against Iran. Not willing to wait for a full Senate vote, President Obama increased sanctions by executive order on February 6th.

"The United States must stop meddling and return to our traditional libertarian foreign policy of free trade in order to give peace a chance in the Middle East.

"Trade sanctions are proven failures. In the 1990s, Presidents George H. W. Bush and Bill Clinton enforced trade sanctions against Iraq which led to the deaths of more than 100,000 innocent men, women and children.

"Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, in an appearance on 60 Minutes in 1996, was asked about the child deaths from sanctions, and replied 'I think this a

very hard choice, but the price -- we think the price is worth it.' Albright's willingness to sacrifice Arab children to achieve US policy goals was broadcast throughout the Arab world and was cited by Osama Bin Laden as a key motivation for the 9/11 attacks.

"Now the US government is doing the same thing to Iran, a country that not only has never attacked the United States, but has attacked no other country in over 200 years. Sanctions don't work. They unite the people of a country behind their political leaders, no matter how bad that leader may be. By meddling in foreign affairs, U.S. politicians turn foreign citizens - who support the United States - against us.

"Rather than repeat failed policies of past presidents, we must use the successful policies of those who kept us out of war. Presidents George Washington and Thomas Jefferson kept the United States out of the bloody French Revolution and allowed us to make peace with our archenemy, the British, by pursuing Free Trade and a noninterventionist foreign policy.

"The Libertarian Party calls for removing all restrictions on trade. Free Trade is the best way to foster peace in the Middle East."

If We Want Better Health Insurance For All, Why Are We Making It Illegal?

From a March 12, 2012
Press Release

Libertarian National Committee Chair, Mark Hinkle, released the following statement today:

"While President Obama and the Republicans in Congress spend time debating whether religious groups must provide their employees free contraceptives, a far more fundamental issue is being ignored: if we want better health insurance for all, why are we making it illegal?"

"ObamaCare, known in Massachusetts as RomneyCare, effectively outlaws true health insurance. Insurance, if you think about it, should exist to protect you against catastrophic expenditures. For example, car insurance doesn't cover the cost of gas and oil, as it would be outrageously expensive due to the incentive for increased driving. Similarly, health insurance should not cover ordinary and predictable costs, yet remains outra-

geously expensive because it does.

"Then why do consumers continue to buy overpriced insurance that covers predictable costs? Government. First, the senseless connection of health insurance to employment is the result of a system that taxes cash wages but not health benefits, punishing employees who would rather have higher cash wages while making their own personal choice of health coverage.

"Second, special interests in every state have lobbied legislators to mandate coverage for their particular product or service. Finally, regulation not only drives up the cost of healthcare, but also restricts entry into the field, leading to even higher prices.

"The result is this: if you want inexpensive health insurance, but don't want coverage for alcoholism, weight loss programs and baldness treatments, and would prefer a deductible based on your personal finances: TOUGH. Even if you're not stuck with your employer's choices, the type of individually tailored

coverage you want is illegal.

"Instead of ObamaRomneyCare, we need to decriminalize good health insurance. Eliminate the coverage mandates, the laws against purchasing health insurance across state lines, and the unfavorable tax treatment of personal insurance policies. Remove the regulations that block entry of new insurers, including charitable organizations which could provide catastrophic protection for the poor and the club-based insurance policies that were once popular before the insurance industry and American Medical Association both pushed to make them illegal.

"As for contraception? Women shouldn't need a permission slip from their doctor to have safe sex. Removing the prescription requirement would massively reduce the cost of contraceptives, making it far more affordable. In turn, this would ease the burden on groups such as Planned Parenthood that have long provided free contraceptives to those in need."

Libertarian Party Says Gov. Walker Made Right First Step

From a June 5, 2012
Press Release

The Libertarian Party supports measures taken by Gov. Scott Walker of Wisconsin to curtail collective bargaining rights of state unions in his bid to cut the state budget deficit. But it's only a first step.

Government employee labor contracts in Wisconsin, like most made between unions and federal, state and local governments in the United States, are inherently illegitimate. Fulfilling their demands, therefore, is not obligatory.

"Governments and unions have an

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LETTERS To The Editor

A Humble Apology

At our very successful and recently concluded May 2012 National Convention, I used a tactic that I now see was a mistake. I used the nominating process to nominate a candidate I opposed for National Chair, Mr. Wes Wagner of Oregon, so that I could speak for about a minute in opposition to him.

After our convention, I realized what a bad precedent and, frankly, bad behavior that was.

A nomination should always be in good faith, or we will encounter more problems in future conventions. I apologize to both Mr. Wagner and to my fellow convention delegates.

Martin L Buchanan
Denver, CO

GOT SOMETHING TO SAY?

Submit your "Letters to the Editor" to editor@lp.org. Please keep letters to 200 words or less, and include your name, city and state. We reserve the right to edit submissions for length, grammar and content (as needed).

Libertarian Solution: End Energy Monopolies

Did you know that energy monopolies are doubling your electric bill? And, wasting enough energy to power 14 cities the size of New York? And, did you know that government protection of these utilities is to blame?

Libertarians want to get government out of the energy business, so we can enjoy the same benefits of deregulation in energy that we have already enjoyed for decades in phone service, air travel, and trucking.

The power companies are government-protected monopolies. Government guarantees they make a profit, no matter how inefficient they are. Government protects them from competition, so they have no reason to cut costs or use newer and cleaner technology. And, your taxes pay to enforce their monopolies.

The Libertarian solution is to shut down these crony capitalist energy monopolies. History tells us we can.

Thirty years ago there were monopoly phone systems almost everywhere, mostly AT&T. Prices were much too high, and they forced us to use clunky phones and party lines even though cell phone technology had been invented. Same thing with airlines and trucking. Government agencies fixed prices, restricted service, and shut out competition.

We still use the same failed policies for public utilities.

Libertarians want you to be allowed

to buy clean, affordable energy. The monopoly power companies and government agencies claim we can't have open competition. That's what Ma Bell and Pan Am said.

But that's self-serving and false. In Germany, for example, you can generate electricity with your own solar panels and sell it to your neighbors. That's one reason why alternative energy now accounts for 20% of the energy in Germany. It's only 2% in the United States.

If we want to harness new energy technologies, we need to liberate the energy industry from government control. Elect Libertarians to office, and we'll open up energy markets. Abolish energy bureaucracies. And sell off all government-owned power plants.

This will give us better service and much less waste. It will cut the average utility bill in half. If you're now paying \$200 a month for electricity, you'll save \$1,200 every year -- \$1,200 for you to spend however you want -- perhaps replacing draughty windows, paying off your credit cards, or taking a much-needed vacation.

For more energy, cleaner energy, and lower electricity bills, vote Libertarian.

Editor's Note: This LP Solution was created by Fred Stitt and edited by Mark Granis and Carla Howell.

NDAA Nullification to Take Effect in VA July 1

The April issue of LP News reported that an anti-NDAA bill passed in the VA senate. Here's an update.

A long and tortuous battle to block one of the most egregious assaults by the federal government on individual freedoms and liberties has ended in victory in Virginia, where a bill to nullify the National Defense Authorization Act will become law on July 1.

Libertarians and others lobbied for house bill HB1160 sponsored by Virginia Delegate Bob Marshall. It passed in the Virginia house in February by a vote of 96-1 and in the state senate 39-1.

Faced with a humiliating veto override, Republican Gov. Bob McDonnell, who was initially rumored to be opposed to the bill, had an apparent change of heart and came up with a face-saving compromise.

The move will allow the bill to become law -- without the governor's formal signature.

Gov. McDonnell, who is rumored to be on Mitt Romney's short list of potential running mates and, therefore, may want to be seen as resisting the bill, sent some minor amendments to the legislature that were accepted, and the lawmakers re-approved the bill -- 89-7 in the House and 36-1 in the Senate.

Del. Marshall explained that because the legislature passed HB 1160 as recommended by the governor, his signature will not be required, and the bill will automatically take effect on July 1.

In an extraordinary act of defiance, the bill prevents any agency or employee of the state of Virginia from knowingly assisting the federal government "in the conduct of the investigation, prosecution, or detention of a United States citizen in violation of the United States Constitution, Constitution of Virginia, or any Virginia law or regulation."

The NDAA, which was passed in December, authorizes the president to use the military to kidnap American citizens suspected of being terrorists.

It requires the federal government to either hold them indefinitely, prosecute them before a military tribunal, or transfer them to a foreign country through a rendition process.

Of utmost concern to legal experts is the NDAA's section 1021, which pretends that the United States is a battlefield and its citizens are enemy combatants who are not entitled to the protections of the Bill of Rights.

Walker's Progress Good Start

...continued from page 14

incestuous relationship in this country," said Libertarian Party Chair Geoffrey J. Neale. "Politicians pass laws forcing millions of government employees to pay union dues while handing out lucrative government employee contracts. The unions pour money into the re-election campaigns of those politicians. Everyday taxpayers and workers are left holding the bag."

A judge must recuse himself when adjudicating a case where he has a financial interest in one of the parties before him. Libertarians assert that, likewise, a lawmaker who takes campaign donations from contractors, unions or anyone else who profits from taxpayer money should not be allowed to vote for handing out government largesse. Nor should those who profit from government be allowed to donate to political campaigns.

But lawmakers routinely allow this conflict of interest, passing laws to man-

date the terms of labor contracts and signing those contracts, rendering them invalid.

A valid contract is one where all interested parties agree to the terms of the contract. When elections can be bought by those who profit from Big Government, the taxpayers have, at best, weak representation. Yet they're expected to foot the bill.

"To call such contracts 'non-discretionary' is a sham. Taxpayers never gave their consent to pay for labor union contracts that dish out high wages, generous benefits, and retirement packages worth two to five times what private sector workers get for doing the same job," said Chair Neale. "This keeps taxes high and promotes recklessly high government overspending. It's also fundamentally unfair."

The Libertarian Party calls for rewriting these contracts to bring government worker compensation in line with that of comparable private sector workers and to eliminate unnecessary and duplicate jobs that drive up government spending.

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Scenes from the 2012 Libertarian National Convention



Above: Twelve-year old rising star Kayla Johnson Smith graced the Libertarian National Convention with her powerful voice, singing *America the Beautiful* and the national anthem. She also performed at the dance on Saturday evening.

What have you missed recently on LP.org?

- Rand Paul Betrays His Father's Principles, Endorses Mitt Romney
Why Ron Paul Supporters Need the Libertarian Party
- The Bounty Hunter Approach to Cutting Local Government Waste
- LP Chair: "Violence is No Way For Civilized People to Get Their Revenue"
- LP Chair: "Get Ready to strip for unpaid traffic ticket."
- LP Chair to Washington- Stop Destroying Jobs So The Economy Can Grow
- Libertarian Gary Johnson's Bold and Consistent Stand on Gay Marriage
- Gary Johnson Ads
- Libertarian Solution Videos

WHAT'S GOING ON IN YOUR STATE?

A complete list of Libertarian events can be found online at LP.org/event. You can get more information by visiting the Web site of your state affiliate. (See a list at LP.org/states.) If there is an event you would like to see listed here or on the Web site, please send details to:

EVENTS@LP.ORG

OR CALL THE LP HEADQUARTERS AT
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